

# **TOWN OF LA JARA**

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Regular Meeting

Date: December 11, 2014

A permanent set of these minutes are maintained in the Town Clerk's Office. Approved Minutes are also available on the web at [www.townoflajara.com](http://www.townoflajara.com)

## **Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the La Jara Town Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Medina @ 7:01 p.m.

## **Pledge of Allegiance:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem Medina

## **Roll Call:**

Present were Trustees: Gallegos, Cummings, Salazar, Espinoza, Valdez, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina. Mayor Zaragoza was absent.

A quorum was present.

Also Present were: Town Manager Koenig, Town Attorney Valdez, Chief of Police Dan Martinez, Town Clerk Shawn Pagnotta, Deputy Town Clerk Michelle Hamilton, Maintenance Supervisor Matt Herrera, and Building Inspector Joseph Trottnier.

Guests Present were: Tony and Mitch Buhr, Officer Campos, Officer Staggs, Fred Gutierrez, and Larry Sisneros.

Officer Jarrod Staggs, the Town's new police officer, was sworn in by Town Clerk Shawn Pagnotta.

## **Agenda**

Trustee Valdez moved, and Trustee Salazar seconded, to approve the Agenda.

### **Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustees Gallegos, Cummings, Salazar, Espinoza, Valdez, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

## **Consent Agenda**

Trustee Gallegos moved, and Trustee Espinoza seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda.

### **Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustees Gallegos, Cummings, Salazar, Espinoza, Valdez, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

### **Recognition of Scheduled Public Comment**

Tony Buhr submitted several more weight tickets to the Board, showing that his load is consistently right around 25,000 lbs. Mitch Buhr asked the Board if they had a chance to go look at the road in question. Town Manager Koenig stated that the road is stable enough for what Mr. Buhr carries. He gave the opinion that Mr. Buhr has been a good citizen and the Board should consider giving him an allowance. Attorney Valdez stated that as long as the Board's decision is reflected in the minutes, it is ok, but they could also pass a resolution. Koenig said that a resolution would be appropriate. Trustee Salazar said that the Board could review the tickets and observe the road from spring to fall, and a resolution could be ready for signing at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Town Manager Koenig mentioned to the Board that they had discussed in the past, certain areas of town that need the road fixed first, for example, around 1<sup>st</sup> Street where the Gallegos's operate. He said that the next time the Board meets, they will have a formal vote on a resolution. Trustee Gallegos asked if someone else comes in with a similar complaint, do they have to make a separate resolution? The answer was yes. Mayor Pro Tem Medina confirmed that they would sign the resolution at the next meeting. She thanked the Buhrs for their good standing citizen.

The next guest, Fred Gutierrez, asked the Board for a donation for his youth basketball program. He said that he may get anywhere from 120-140 kids participating. He said uniforms are \$6.00 a piece, basketballs are \$90.00 a piece, and insurance is \$400.00 annually. Trustee Salazar asked how much the town budgeted for Fred. Town Manager Koenig replied that they budgeted \$400. He said they might think about increasing that amount in 2015. Mayor Pro Tem Medina commented that it is a great program.

Trustee Salazar moved, and Trustee Cummings seconded to approve a \$400.00 donation to Fred Gutierrez's youth basketball program.

### **Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustees Gallegos, Cummings, Salazar, Espinoza, Valdez, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Mr. Gutierrez thanked the Board, and thanked them also for paving his street. Mayor Pro Tem Medina stood and presented Mr. Gutierrez with a plaque, honoring him for being the 2013 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

### **Recognition of Unscheduled Public Comment**

Larry Sisneros approached the Board, asking about the survey response. Town Manager Koenig said they got about a 20% response. Mr. Sisneros suggested that the town send out a thank you to residents for filling out the survey. Mayor Pro Tem Medina commented that it would be a good idea to do so.

### **Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Koenig referred the Board to the survey results in their council packets. He pointed out that the response is about the same for poor and excellent. He said that the results show that there are always true believers and haters. Trustee Gallegos asked if anyone could have a copy of the results. Trustee Salazar asked if the results could be posted on the website. Koenig answered "yes" to both. Trustee Espinoza asked if the website has a new URL. Town Clerk Pagnotta confirmed that it does and gave her the correct web address. Trustee Salazar commented that it was nice to see what citizens want to work on most, which is sidewalks and streets. Koenig agreed and said that the town is working on three grants currently, which is a lot. He said that they have had meetings with engineers already regarding the GOCO grant. He told the trustees that if they would like to attend these meetings, they need to give prior

notice, because only two trustees can attend at a time by law. He announced an upcoming meeting on Monday at 9:00 a.m., with Leroy Cruz, to discuss water/sewer rate hikes.

Next, Koenig broached the water/waste water project. He said that the town was approved for a loan from the state Water & Power Authority, with some caviots. He said that the Board will have to raise the rates. He announced that the town has applied for a DOLA grant to pay for half of the cost of the project, and that grantees will be announced in February. He pointed out that he included in the packets, Alamosa and Monte Vista's rates for comparison. He said that Alamosa's rate is \$1.20 per 1,000 gallons, whereas La Jara's rate is \$.70 per 1,000 gallons. On top of that, Alamosa has multiple surcharges and user rates, which makes their charges even higher. He asked the Board to look at the Town Clerk's report, where it shows that the amount of outgoing funds exceeds the amount of incoming funds. Trustee Espinoza said that this is not the first month that it has been that way. Koenig agreed and suggested that they increase the rates every five years. He said that the current rates are a combination of several past administrations. He said that the State and Clean Water Authority were astounded that we have 28 different rates. He pointed out that Alamosa has 8 and Monte Vista has 4. Koenig also said that the usage is out of whack, with commercial usage at 68%, but only providing 34% of the town's income, meaning that the big users are out of town. The residents are essentially paying twice through rates and mill levy taxes. He said that the biggest users are paying the least. In order remedy that, the rates will need to be restructured. Trustee Salazar said that what they need to do is figure out why they have so many rates, and why the incoming is less than the outgoing. He asked who is making the proposal. Koenig replied that it is Leroy Cruz at Colorado Clean Water, and the assessment is free. He stated that Mr. Cruz looks at usage by pipe size. Koenig stressed that the trustees need to be aware of where the town is at on the issue. Town Attorney Valdez stated that he can see a storm coming when it is announced to residents, schools and hospitals that the town is increasing rates. He said that they will claim that it doesn't fit their budget. Trustee Salazar said that it will take some time to compile the results from the study, and they will show a willingness to work together. Trustee Valdez mentioned that the high school only has sewer so it won't affect their budget too badly. Koenig reiterated that the town cannot go on with an income lower than expenses. Trustee Espinoza said that the town needs to be their first priority, and the rates should reflect that. Trustee Valdez suggested that they wait until they get some figures and then go on from there. Koenig reminded the trustees that trustees need to make the decision.

Next Koenig mention a telephone conference with Downtown Colorado Inc. He explained that it is a federally funded economic development organization. He said that they come and meet with organizations and community and come up with a game plan to follow. He explained that the program is not free. He said that the town can apply for a grant to match half of the total cost, which will be between \$15,000 - \$21,000 total cost. He told the Board that the town would have to cover the total cost up front, and then they would be reimbursed for half by DOLA. Trustee Espinoza explained that they are the same folks who manage the Main Street program. She said that "this is what they do". She explained that they bring in teams to meet with stakeholders. She said they bring in 4-5 consultants to figure out what challenges and strong points the town has, and then they make goals for us to work towards. They also provide a year's worth of consultation from them, with planning and zoning committees, to make sure the momentum continues. She mentioned that DCI is also applying for a USDA grant that could extend their consulting for two years. She said that collaboration is their specialty. Koenig warned that they need to be careful of things like this. He pointed out that DCI laid out a sample agenda that is extended for years. He said that the town's budget is tight for 2015 because they are trying to build up reserves in the accounts. Trustee Salazar asked what type of maps they are talking about in the proposal. Koenig replied that they are looking for as much historical information as they can garner. Trustee Salazar said that they compiled architectural plats in Antonito for a project, and he would like to see that happen in La Jara. Koenig said that Monte Vista has that too as part of their planning and zoning master plan. Mayor Pro Tem Medina asked if any other municipalities in the valley have used DCI's services. Koenig replied "No", but added that La Jara is the town they have expressed interest in. Trustee Salazar asked if they

need to pass a resolution to explore the program more. Town Clerk Pagnotta read the proposed resolution to the Board. Mayor Pro Tem Medina asked for confirmation that no dollars are being committed yet. Koenig confirmed that the resolution is just to agree to further exploration. He said that they will need another resolution to commit dollars in the future, which will have to come from a CD.

Trustee Salazar moved, and Trustee Gallegos seconded to pass Resolution 2014-12 to further explore Downtown Colorado Inc.'s technical assistance program.

**Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustees Gallegos, Cummings, Salazar, Espinoza, Valdez, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Next, Town Manager Koenig announced that the DOLA grant has been submitted to help offset the cost of the trunk line project, so now it is a waiting game to see if the grant is awarded.

Trustee Salazar moved, and Trustee Cummings seconded to accept the Town Manager's report.

**Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustees Gallegos, Cummings, Salazar, Espinoza, Valdez, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

**Town Attorney's Report**

Town Attorney Ray Valdez did not have anything to report.

Trustee Salazar moved, and Trustee Cummings seconded to accept the Town Attorney's report.

**Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustees Gallegos, Cummings, Salazar, Espinoza, Valdez, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

**Town Board of Trustees Comments**

**Trustee Gallegos** – mentioned that a lady commented to her that the police are too aggressive. She said that the woman was going to come to the Town Board meeting, but since she didn't, she wouldn't pursue the complaint any further.

**Trustee Cummings** – Said that he was pleased that the Board made the decision to grandfather in Tony Buhr's business.

**Trustee Salazar** – commented that he is glad they are looking into planning and zoning more. He said that it not only helps with infrastructure, but also businesses. He said that he anticipates seeing some fast results, and he is glad to be on the Board.

**Trustee Espinoza** – commended the maintenance crew for the good job they did on the lights. She also praised them for the tree trimming they did on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. She asked Maintenance Supervisor Matt Herrera if they were cleaning up a lot over there. Herrera responded that they had hangers and scraps fell onto a private lot, which they cleaned up. She thanked him.

**Trustee Valdez** – asked Building Inspector Joe Trottnier if the clinic has approached him about fixing their roof, to which Trottnier responded "No". Valdez commented that they are trying to clean up the town and the clinic has placed tires all over their roof, which looks awful. Trottnier said that he will approach them about it.

**Mayor Pro Tem Medina** – suggested that next year, they should invite a business owner to the Christmas party so they can meet the Board and get to know each other.

### **New Business**

Town Clerk Pagnotta directed the Board to the Mill Levy resolution in their packet. She explained that they had already passed one, but then the county assessor made some changes, so they need to pass a new one.

Trustee Salazar moved, and Trustee Valdez seconded to pass Resolution 2014-19 Mill Levy Taxes

### **Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustees Gallegos, Cummings, Salazar, Espinoza, Valdez, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

### **Adjournment**

**Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to adjourn. The Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m..**

**Respectfully Submitted by**

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**Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta**

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**Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem**